

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of inhibiting *Ehrlichia canis* infection in a subject comprising the steps of:

5 identifying a subject prior to exposure or suspected of being exposed to or infected with *Ehrlichia canis*; and
administering a composition comprising a 28-kDa antigen of *Ehrlichia canis* in an amount effective to inhibit *Ehrlichia canis* infection.

10

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said 28-kDa antigen is a recombinant protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 2, 4, 6, 15 40, 42, 44 and 46.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said recombinant protein is encoded by a gene comprising a sequence selected from 20 the group consisting of SEQ ID No. 1, 3, 5, 39, 41, 43 and 45.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition comprising a 28-kDa antigen is dispersed in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.